Sir

Washington June 6. 1801.

I recieved some time ago your friendly favor of May 16. and return you my thanks for your kind felicitations on my appointment to office. your recommendation of mr Howell to the place of district attorney was duly attended to. that gentleman had been formerly well known to myself & some members of the administration, & much to his advantage. I was therefore happy in placing the interests of my fellow citizens in so good hands. the ~~most~~ desire of appointing the best men to public offices, renders recommendations from candid & well informed persons peculiarly acceptable. none will ever be recieved with more thankfulness & confidence than yours. I pray you to accept assurances of my high consideration & esteem.

Th: Jefferson

Governor Fenner.

Brown MSS-A 79-1

N°. 3.

Monticello May. 17. 16

I recieved, my dear friend, yesterday evening only your letter of Jan. 21. and this day I write to a bookseller in Philadelphia to send immediately, for you, two copies of the Anonymous Review of Montesquieu, under cover to mr Gallatin, if he be not gone. in a letter to him lately, I begged of him to say to your self and mr T. that I had not the courage to write to either of you, until I could send a copy of the work on Political economy which I have been so long endeavoring to get printed. I will state to you however the simple fact. I proposed to the same editor at Philadelphia to translate and print this, who had done the former work. he undertook it. after time enough had elapsed as I thought it, to have heard of it's publication, I wrote to ask when it would appear? at such a time it was answered. it is needless to repeat to you the subsequent reiterated applications, excuses & promises. they ended finally in a declaration that the work was translated, but that he could not print it. I then desired a return of the work. it was sent to me with the translation. I then engaged a person in Washington to print it, offering, if he would, to revise the translation myself. he has undertaken it. but when I came to look into the translation, I found it such as had never been seen. it had been done by a person who understood neither French nor English. I entered on the correction, and had got too far into it before I became sensible it would have been shorter for me to translate it anew. I spent five hours a day on it, for between two and three months. I was able at length to make it faithful to the text, but not elegant. le premier jet rendered that impossible. it has been in the hands of the editor about a month; but as he is to send me the proof sheets for correction, successively as they come out and by mail, it will employ the summer & autumn probably.

Coolidge 1A 74-2

nothing has been spared which depended on me; and had I resided where the publication was undertaken, I could, by daily attentions, have soon seen into the fact and cause of delay, and have remedied them. but at the distance of 300. miles from Philadelphia, unable to get information but such as the undertaker chose to give, and through the public mail, I was quite at his mercy. still I shall think my trouble and vexations well requited by professing my countrymen of such a work. it's principles are so profound, so logically demonstrated, and so briefly expressed, that it must become the elementary book of the world for the science of Political economy, as the other will be of that of government. the very metaphysical character of the Prefatory pieces may deter some readers not in the habit of abstract contemplation, while it will be highly satisfactory to those who are. the indications however are sufficient which shew the former where the part of the work begins which will be interesting to them, and levelled to the comprehensions less exercised in speculations of this character. in this plain statement I hope yourself & your friend will find an apology for the delays which have taken place in sending you this work. with respect to the Commentary on Montesquieu there is a fact of some note. you are aware that the Edinburg review is considered as the ablest work of that kind which has ever been published. means were taken to place this work in the hand of the Editor. but while the work itself, & the principles of his Review permitted him to say nothing against it, it's being an american publication was ground enough to avoid saying any thing in it's favor. they have therefore not even mentioned it in their monthly catalogue of new publications. such are the feelings of that country towards this.

Uncertain whether mr Gallatin is yet gone, & of course whether this letter will reach him in time, or go by some other conveyance,

it is most prudent to say little on politics. that the violations of all rights committed on the Continent by France, under the direction of Bonaparte, as well as those on the ocean by England, merited a proper measure of retaliation and punishment, I imagine yourselves are sensible. on England it is yet to come: and on France, had it proceeded but to a reasonable length, justice would not have condemned it. but it has past that term. the continuation of it becomes aggression: and the allies have gone on to commit equal violations on independant nations with those of Bonaparte. if there were another world to do it, the same crusade ought now to be undertaken against them, which they enlisted against France. still I believe the loss of the battle of Waterloo was the salvation of France. had Bonaparte obtained the victory, his talents, his egoism, and destitution of all moral principle, would have rivetted a military despotism on your necks. in your present situation, however afflicting and humiliating, I think it certain you will effect a constitution in which the will of the nation shall have an organised controul over the actions of it's government, and it's citizens a regular protection against it's oppressions. I dare add no more, but my prayers for the events, and that your steady pursuits of this object may be rewarded by the happiness of your seeing it realised before you sing your Nunc dimittas.

Th: Jefferson

Monticello Mar. 1. 15.

At length it seems have peace, but of what duration is uncertain, because no arrangement being made against the impressment of American citizens, the first act of that character will be a declaration of war. We must therefore consider ourselves merely as an armistice, and employ our part in fortifying our seaports, providing military stores, classing & disciplining the militia, and arranging our finances. While engaged in these we may also be endeavoring to prevent the occasion for them by a convention against impressment. you will have heard of the brilliant brave actions at New Orleans which closed our war. of 9600 men which they landed, 2600 were killed or taken on different days, their 1st and 2d generals killed, & the 3d wounded, mortally as is said. indeed in every action of the campaign we proved the superiority of both our regulars & militia, when well commanded, to the regulars of the enemy. the coup de main at Washington would have been nothing without the burning the government papers and library, and that has only served to immortalize their infamy. we have at length some officers becoming prominent, and such as, had the war gone on, would have planted our standard on the walls of Quebec in the first campaign, & on those of Halifax in the second.

My last to you was of June 20. yours since received have been of May 15. July 14. I informed you in mine of the operation by which we had saved ourselves by a timely withdrawing of it from the banks before their failure. every bank in the U.S. has since stopped payment. they promise indeed that they will resume as soon as cash can be obtained. perhaps some of them may be able: but most of them are irrecoverably gone, and in the meantime their stock is become an absolute zero at market. I informed you also of the sale of your bank stock before the alarm had depreciated it, and by the subscriptions offered on a loan proposed by the U.S. we had been able to turn your capital of 7000.D into one of 11 363.D at an interest of 6. per cent. [illegible]

[illegible]

more favorable terms having been obtained on the same loan by some later offers, the government very justly extended the same advantages by retrospect to those who had been more prompt in their offers. And by which an additional sum of 1100. 2 has been made to you which has raised that portion of your capital to 12,500 D. bearing interest at 6. per cent. on the other portion of your funds, to wit the 4500 D in my hands your income will be somewhat lessened. This sum you know had been repaid to mr Barnes by the Treasury, and I apprehend not yet to be reinvested, when on my attending upon the Legislature, I found myself in arrears there. I was led myself if the case had been known before I could have come to consult you. as bank stock then yielded a profit of 8. per cent. per annum, interest on that at 6. and this money might have been reinvested for you in bank stock. I thought it just that I should pay you 8. per cent, which I have done ever since. It is now in my power to replace the sum I had borrowed, and the banks being shut we have no safe investment of it but in the Treasury notes of the U.S. which bear an interest of 5 3/10 per cent. I shall accordingly, in the course of the month deposit with the Treasury of the U.S. 4500 D. in their notes; which is placing your whole capital of 17000 D in their hands; the interest of which will be 1005 D a year. I hope that in all this I shall meet your approbation, and am bound at the same time to express to you my great thankfulness for the accomodation I received from your funds, in a moment of great need and for the time with which I have been indulged to replace them. I expected sooner to have been enabled to do it, but I am not a strict manager in the economies of my house or farms, and the war was an immediate and sudden pressure of profits by shutting up our produce to us on our hands. I salute you with affectionate and unchangeable esteem and respect.

Th: Jefferson

Mon cher et respectable Ami

Vous avancez en age, c'est pour cela
arranger je veux prier qu'après la mort de notre
digne Ami M. Barnes, qu'un grand sa place
et digne que lui, pour que mes enfants jouissent
de mes fonds, vous avez la destination après ma
mort. Je ne change en rien. Vous aurez
tout le pouvoir d'arranger comme vous pensez
le mieux pour moi — quant à votre aimable
invitation, je serais certainement heureux mais
mon pays me tient à coeur. Je pense ma connaissance
et quelquefois il m'est doux de leur donner les
conseilles. Je suis seul véritable Polonois en Europe
tous les autres sont asservis par leur circonstances
à différentes Puissances. Vous direz que cet état est
pitoyable, oui vraiment, c'est mais justement on peut
que on a besoin plus de mon conseille. Par tout
être independant. Pensant bien, raisonnant bien, et
ayant un Coeur bon et les sentiments pour l'humanité

Monticello June 15.17.

I have been much distressed, my dear friend & General at the embarrassments you have experienced from the want of punctuality in your remittances; but with equal satisfaction I have learnt from your letter to mr Barnes that they were at length recieved. my inland situation, withdrawn far from all the commercial cities, has obliged me to leave to mr Barnes altogether the reciept and remittance of your funds. to a more honest or punctual man this care could not be committed. but it is impossible to be always guarded against bad bills. the merchants keep their affairs so secret to themselves that it is difficult to know always who are good; and if either drawer or drawee is in default, disappointment ensues. it was lucky he was able to recover the protested bill, so as to avoid it's total loss. these considerations, joined to the great age of mr Barnes, now 87. and my own age, now 74. make it worthy of consideration whether you might not be less exposed to delays, if your funds were now transferred to Europe. neither mr Barnes nor myself have much more of life to expect. and should we recieve the order of "March" nearly together, your affairs here would be without superintendance, until you could learn their situation, and send over new powers. your funds could be now sold without loss. the only danger is that of bad bills in remitting them, and whether you can find an equally safe and advantageous deposit there. the rotten and bankrupt state of the merchants of England renders that channel too unsafe. the surest would be Amsterdam. but bills on that place are sometimes difficult to be had, and interest there is very low. take all this, my dear friend, into consideration, and whatever you wish shall be executed with all the caution practicable. the good bill sent you in lieu of the protested one, and then the protested one additionally, place mr Barnes considerably in advance for you, and will occasion a longer interval before another remittance.

We are going on so smoothly and quietly here that I have little more to say to you of our affairs than that all is well. our new President is now on a tour to examine our places of defence, and have them made what they should be. we are building ships of the line & frigates, paying off our debts, and putting ourselves into as safe a military posture as we can. internal improvements too are in great activity. schools, roads and canals are become objects of occupation in all the states. the most gigantic undertaking is that of New York, to bring the waters of Lake Erie into the Hudson, thro' a length of 353. miles, and over a height of 661. feet. steam boats are now introducing into every river of size, and we count much on the efficacy of steam frigates, and floating batteries moved by steam, for harbor defence. some permanent defence for the Chesapeak bay, thro' which more than half our produce is exported, is anxiously sought for, but not yet satisfactorily devised. we recieve immense emigrations from Europe. those from France are the least valuable, being mostly men of high military rank, knowing nothing but war, and nothing at all of the sort of war which the peculiarities of our country require. still they are welcome, and recieved in our bosom as strangers needing asylum. from Switzerland and Great Britain we get valuable people, especially the last who bring us good agriculture as well as the manufactoring arts. for happily their emigrants are of these classes, who are breaking up there, and leaving their nobility to work for themselves.

Would you not, my dear friend, be now better here than at Soleure? that the society of Paris is better than ours we admitted: but we shall not yield that point to every European location. if you like a city life, fix in the Quaker city of Philadelphia. if the country, I would say come to Monticello, and be one of our family. but you formerly protested against that as encroaching on your independance; altho' it would have been ourselves who would have been dependant on you for the happiness of your society. but if this is still unsettled, come and build a house, or rent

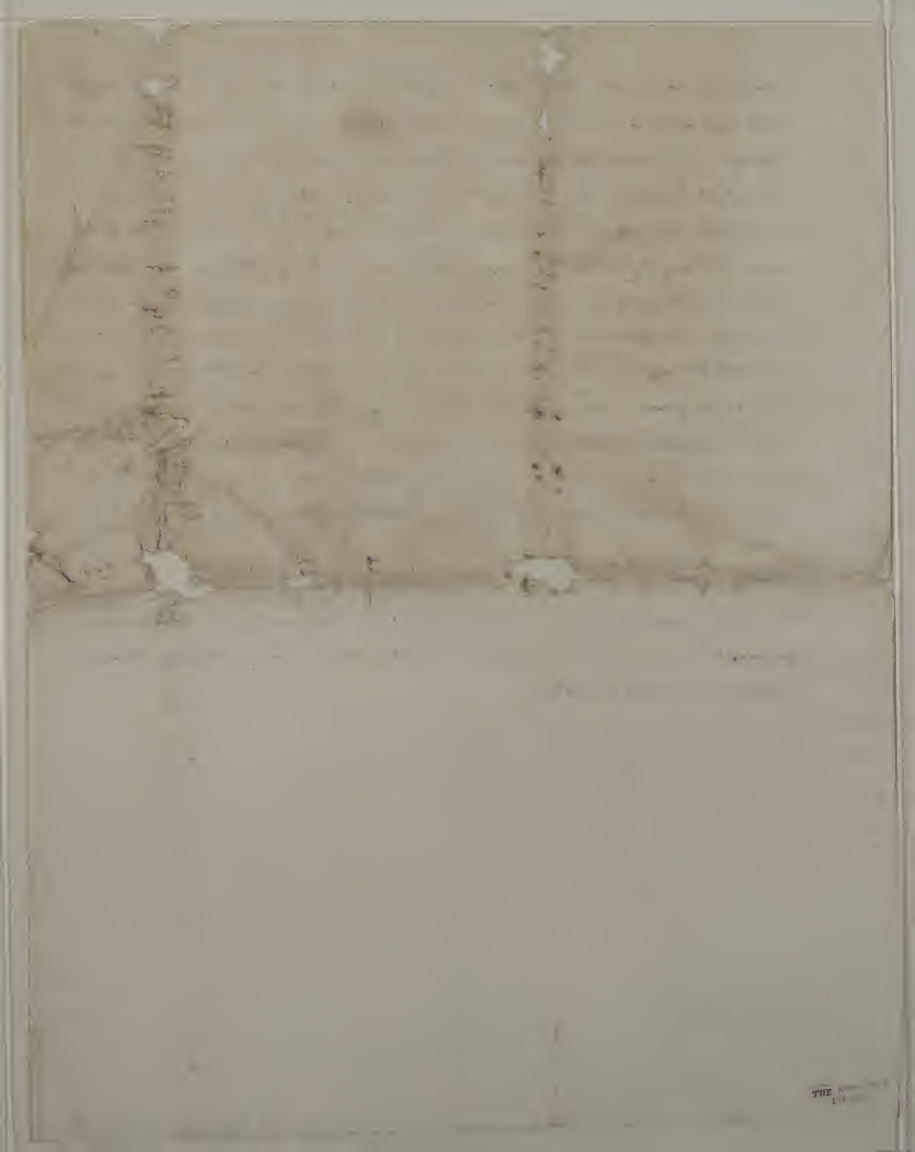
a hours so near as to dine with us every day. we have a healthy country and excellent neighborly society. or fix yourself in Charlottesville, a country village of 500. inhabitants, good people, 2½ miles from me, and where I am inviting some of the Swiss artists to come & establish themselves. think seriously of this, my dear friend, close a life of liberty in a land of liberty. come and lay your bones with mine in the Cemetery of Monticello. this too will be the best way of placing your funds and yourself together; and will enable me to give you in person those assurances of affectionate friendship and respect which must now be committed to the hazard of this letter.

Th: Jefferson

some distance from Monticello. Which is now engaged in erecting many
of what was formerly left by my friend I alluded to. It will be nearly accomp-
-lished by the close of this year. Two more years will suffice for the rest
-ore of that Property, when this part of your friends affairs will be restored in
some of the most valuable of his lands. The diversion of it from this purpose for 4 or 5
years will in the mean time have saved me. But the reflection can never me
& needs the solace of your approbation. Instead of the unalloyed happiness
of retiring unembarrassed & independent, to the enjoyment of my estate which
is unprized for my limited views I have to pass with a length of time in
a Vortex of duns, such as never before known to me. except for this my happiness
would have been perfect. That you may never know disturbance & that
you may enjoy as many years of life, health & ease as yourself shall
wish, is the sincere prayer of your constant & affectionate friend.

P.S. I just received cover herewith Mr Barnes's letter with his
annual account & a remittance of £200. sterl. the Duplicates shall
follow by another occasion.

Coolidge MS 6A 79-5



Dear Sir

Monticello Jan. 27. 16.

I am favored with yours of the 17th. mr Cabell had apprised me of the objections to the power of imprisonment given to the a functionary of our College; and having explained to him the reason of it I must refer you to him for a sight of my letter. the object seems to have been totally mistaken, and what was intended in tenderness to the youth has been misconstrued into an act of severity, for every one knows they may now be sent by a common magistrate to the common prison for a breach of the peace. With respect to the bank-mania, I foresaw it in 1791. and then opposed the establishment of the Bank of the U.S. which I knew was only an incubation. I have marked the progress of the disease and seen that it was incurable, and to end in death. there will be a vast crush of private fortunes on the decay of the old continental paper, as of the assignats of France, the Mississippi paper of Law, the South-sea paper of England &c. the most pitiable of it's victims, now as before, will be the helpless widow & orphan. prudent men will mitigate it's effects by caution. they will protect themselves as they do their fences when the woods are afire, by firing against it. what is most blameable in the cruelty of your proceeds, roasting us before a slow fire like the martyrs in the days of persecution. instead of your 15. banks, be merciful, and give us the coup de grace, make it a thousand. however I am perfectly content with the 15. and to meet all hazards and trials with my fellow citizens. if we keep together we shall be safe. and when error is so apparent as to become visible to the majority, they will correct it, and what we suffer during the error must be carried to account with [illegible] losses by tempests, earthquakes &c. Accept of yours with great friendship

Thomas W. Mawry esq.

Th: Jefferson

Coolidge MSS 69 77-6

Fol 1

Thomas Walker Maury esq

of the legislature

in Richmond

Coast MS 6A 79-6

Dear Sir

Washington Dec. 10. 1802

Immediately on the receipt of your favor of Nov. 30. I directed a commission ~~of bankruptcy~~ to issue to mr Judd under the bankrupt law mr Granger had before spoken to me on the subject but added that you would write. I am extremely happy when I can receive recommendations for office from characters in whom I have such entire confidence; as nothing chagrins me so much as when I have been led to an injudicious appointment. this happens sometimes, not from any intentions in our friends, but their inexact or partial estimate of the character they recommend. the other duties of administration are easy in comparison with this. the appointment to office, where one cannot see but with the eyes of others, is by far the most difficult of my duties. these observations are meant as proofs of the satisfaction I recieve when you are kind enough to tell me who is, & who is not, fit for office. — we are now in the 5th day of the session & have no senate, nor any prospect of one for several days, but 12 members being as yet arrived. consequently I have not yet made the accustomary communication to Congress, and probably shall not till the 14th. the acts of the last session have so fully rectified what was going amiss that the quiet train in which things are flowing now, offers little to communicate: nor do I foresee a single question which ought to excite party contention. still every question will excite it, because it is sufficient that we propose a measure to produce opposition to it from the other party. a little of this is not amiss, as it keeps up a wholesome censorship on our conduct; and the excess to which it is still carried is daily likely to lessen, as the elections in every part of the union evince. I pray you to accept assurances of my great esteem & respect.

Th: Jefferson

Ephraim Kirby esq.

Case Mss 1011 71-7

free
Th: Jefferson Pr. U.S.

ASH
M

Joseph H. Nicholson esq

Chesterfield

near Centreville Mary.d

Th: Jefferson's letter
Aug 13 1813
Referred to Louisiana
Papers

Dear Sir

Washington May 13. 1803.

I return you the letter of Capt Jones, with thanks for the perusal. while it is well to have an eye on our enemy's camp, it is not amiss to keep one for the movements in our own. I have no doubt that the agitation of the public mind on the continuance of Tories in office, is excited in some degree by those who want to get in themselves. however the mass of the nation affected by it can have no views of that kind. it is composed of such of our friends as have a warm sense of the former intolerance, and present bitterness of our adversaries and they are not without excuse. while it is best for our own tranquility, to see and hear with apathy the atrocious calumnies of the profess which our enemies support for the purposes of calumny, it is what they have no right to expect; nor can we consider the indignation they excite in others as unjust, so strongly censure those whose temperament is not proof against it. nor are they protected in their places by any right they have to more than a just proportion of them, & still less by their own example which in favor: but by considerations respecting the tranquility of the public mind. this tranquility seems necessary to predispose the candid part of our fellow-citizens who have erred & strayed from their ways, to return again to them, and to consolidate once more that union of will, without which the nation will not stand firm against foreign force & intrigue. on the subject of the late Philadelphia schism at Philadelphia, a well informed friend says, "the fretful turbulent disposition which has manifested itself in Phil[a] originated in some degree from a sufficient cause, which I will explain when I see you. a reunion will take place, & in the issue it will be useful. their resolves will be so tempered as to remove most of the unpleasant feelings which have been experienced." I shall certainly be glad to recieve the explanation and modification of their proceedings; for they were taking a form which could not be approved on true principles. we laid down our line of proceedings on mature enquiry & consideration in 1801. and have not departed from it. some removals, to wit 16. to the end of the 1st session of Congress were made on political principle alone, in very urgent cases: and determined to make no more but for delinquency, or active & bitter opposition to the order of things which the public will

Mr. Nicholson

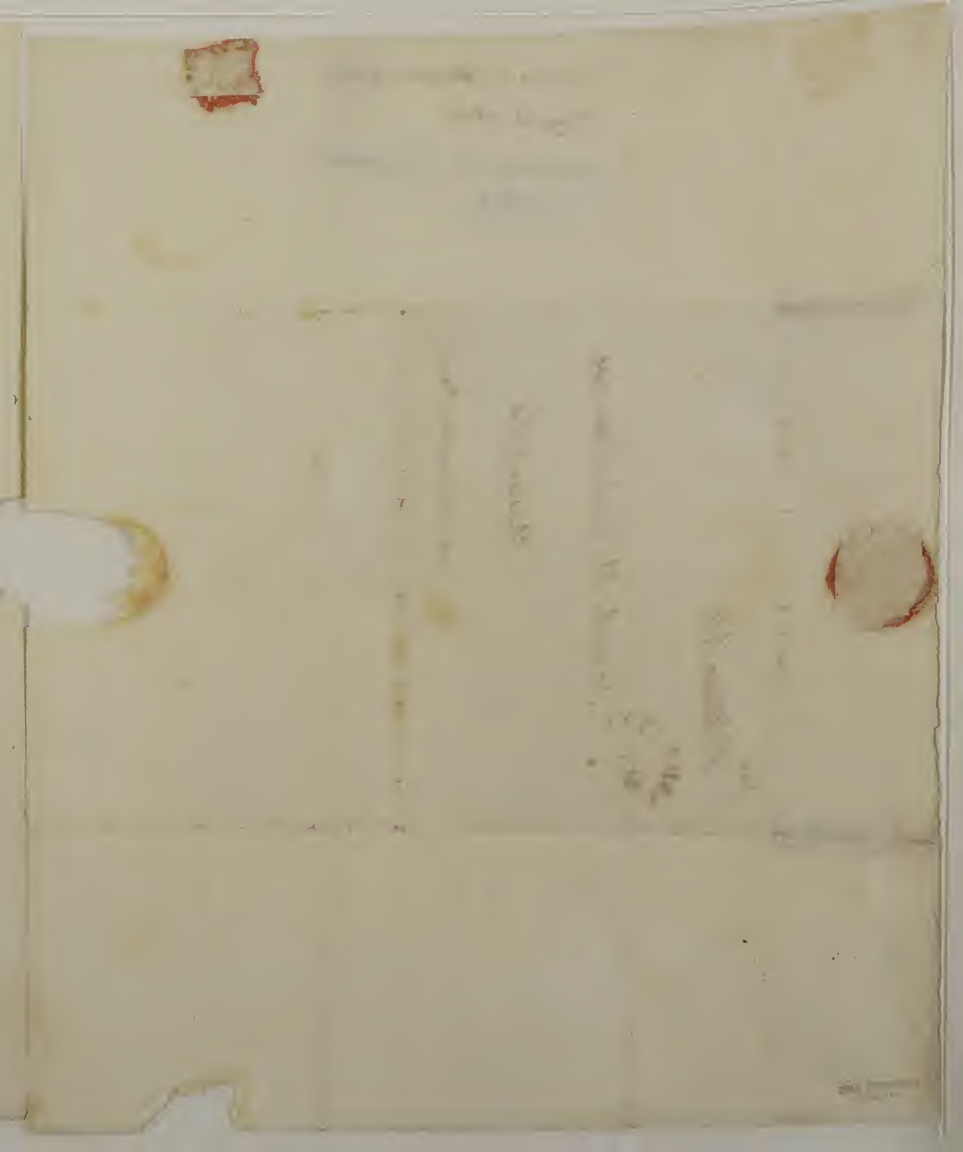
LC DLC 7:8

had established. on this last ground 9. were removed from the end of the 1st to the end of the 2d session of Congress; and one since that. so that 16. only have been removed in the whole for political principle, that is to say to make room for some participation for the republicans who had been systematically excluded from office. I do not include the midnight appointments. these were a mere fraud not suffered to go into effect. pursuing our object of harmonizing all good people of whatever description, we shall steadily adhere to our rule, and it is with sincere pleasure I learn that it is approved by the more moderate part of our friends.

We have received official information that in the instrument of cession of Louisiana to France were these words, 'saving the rights acquired by other powers in virtue of treaties made with them by Spain;' and cordial acknolegements from this power for our temperate forbearance under the misconduct of her officer. the French prefect too has assured Governor Claiborne that if the Suspension is not removed before he takes place, he will then remove it. but the Spanish Intendant has before this day recieved the positive order of his government to do it, sent there by a vessel of war, & forwarded by us to Natchez.

Altho' there is probably no truth in the stories of war actually commenced, yet I believe it inevitable. England insists on a remodification of the affairs of Europe, so much changed by Bonaparte since the treaty of Amiens. so that we may soon expect to hear of hostilities. —— you must have heard of the extraordinary charge of Chace to the grand jury at Baltimore. ought this seditious & official attack on the principles of our constitution, and on the proceedings of a state, to go unpunished? and to whom so pointedly as yourself will the public look for the necessary measures? I ask these questions for your consideration. for myself, it is better that I should not interfere. Accept my friendly salutations and assurances of great esteem & respect.

Th: Jefferson



To the Senate of the United States

On the 11th. of January last I laid before the Senate for their consideration and advice, a Convention with Spain on the subject of indemnities for spoliations on our commerce committed by her subjects during the late war; which Convention is still before the Senate. as this instrument did not embrace French seizures & condemnations of our vessels in the ports of Spain, for which we deemed the latter power responsible, our Minister at that court was instructed to press for an additional article comprehending that branch of wrongs. I now communicate what has since passed on that subject. the Senate will judge whether the prospect it offers will justify a longer suspension of that portion of indemnities conceded by Spain, should she now take no advantage of the lapse of the period for ratification.

As the settlement of the boundaries of Louisiana will call for new negociations, on our receiving possession of that province, the claims not obtained by the Convention now before the Senate may be incorporated into those discussions.

Th: Jefferson

Dec. 21. 1803.

Case MS 6A 79-9

To the Senate of the United States

Case MS 6A 79-10

Gedruckt bei Max Hesse in Leipzig.

Dear Sir

Washington June 8. 05.

After writing to you yesterday, I went at the painting room of mr Stewart (the celebrated portrait painter) who had first suggested to me the painting a floor green, which he had himself tried with fine effect. he observed that care should be taken to hit the true grass green, & as he had his pencils & colours in their hand, I asked him to give me a specimen of the colour which he instantly mixed up to his mind, and I spread it with a brush on the inclosed paper. be so good therefore as to give it to mr Perry as the model of the colour I wish to have the hall floor painted of. The painters here talk of putting a japan varnish over the painted floor and floor cloth after the paint is dry, which they say will prevent it's fading & will bear washing. as I have not seen it I can not say what it is but Perry can perhaps. The best judge of it is my good mother.

Mrs Dawnmore

Thomas Jefferson

N.B. The floor should be painted the
first time you have it readily, and all other
work should give way to the getting that done

Coll. MS AA 7141

Thomas Jefferson
Washington 18th Jan.y 1808.
received 20.th do
answered the same.

Mefs[rs] Francis & Strong [illegible] Jan. 18 of

Nearly an occupation of [illegible] prevented my sooner acknowledging your kind favor of the 9th. always desirous of hearing the results of new races of animals and of adding them, if worthy, to our national stock I accept with thankfulness the Bengal bull you are so kind as to offer me. The only safe conveyance I believe will be by some of the vessels of the Philadelphia & Baltimore & Chesapeake or its branches. Their passage & the care of them will be paid here. but this cannot be till the ice breaks up. The Bengal cow & our Brantz importation which was given me [illegible] after leaving me a pair of Italian sheep of which we are taking care of [illegible] enable to know I am mer[illegible]

I may perhaps have some communication to you to trace [illegible] during the present embargo the government proposes to send a [illegible] to Europe for the purpose of it's foreign correspondence. these will go to Brest L'Orient & Cadiz, and by them you may have safe conveyance even for any letters which will easily find their way from those ports. the first will sail about the 1st of the next month probably from New York. the the date & port will be more particularly [illegible] made known for the convenience of the merchants

Your [illegible] encourage me to trouble you again in that way. if through your correspondent who executed my last commission to Le Roche, or Kinsley, any other you could procure for me the books subjoined to this letter it would confer a great obligation on me. it seems unfair to be asking such small favors of

[illegible] 41 54 [illegible]

your greater correspondence, but having no correspondence on the continent of Europe which can supply me with it in that line I find myself obliged to appeal to your experienced goodness. I pray you to accept my valuable thanks & assurances of great esteem & respect

Sir Joseph Banks

The 71st & subsequent Livraisons of the Encyclopedie methodique I possess the 70th. & all the preceding Livraisons] unbound

Linnaei Systema naturae. edit. XIII. Gmelin
Linnaei Genera plantarum. edit. VIII. Schreber. 2 vols. bound
Frankfort 1789—91
Linnaei species plantarum cum notis Willdenow. 5 vols
Berlin 1797 to 1808

The 5th vol of Le Naturaliste & Observateur de Diversdat unset. I possess the 4 first vols.] unbound.

Th: Jefferson

Mr. Jeremiah A. Goodman

Poplar Forest

in Bedford

by Dick, Solomon
and Philip

since writing the within Mr. Eaton
will deliver his account

Dear Sir Monticello Dec. 22.13.

Dick Sol[illegible] and Philip are permitted to go and see their friends, and in returning will help to bring the hogs and beeves. I am in hopes you have procured the beds and given them to the women. in giving out their clothes I forgot the article of hats. which I give every other year; but as it will be more convenient to give about half one year and half another, we will give to the men only, this year, and to the women the next. be so good therefore as to get hats for all the men & lads who labour. we get them here at a dollar & 7/6 clover seed is now at 15.— and may get higher. at this price we can only afford to sow mr Darnell's lower field which must be sowed at any price. I expect Bill's waggon will be with you about the latter end of the next week, and will bring, when she returns, the residue of the peas which Dick shall not bring. I shall be glad to learn by the return of the bearers what progress is made on the bear creek road., and whether the tobacco is sold or got down. were the weather to be very mild in feb. or Mar. it is possible I might then pay you a visit. accept my best wishes.

Mr. Goodman. Th: Jefferson

Case MS 6A 79-3

free
Th: Jefferson

Mutton Ale
10 Leaves

Mr. George Watterston

Librarian to Congress

Washington

Sir Monticello Jan. 3. 16

My granddaughter Ellen Randolph has just set out for Richmond from whence she will go on to Washington in about ten days. she has in charge the two vols of Virginia Laws which were not at home when the Library went on, which she will have delivered to you. the only volume now remaining undelivered is the MS. one of Laws in the hands of mr Henry as formerly stated. as soon as he has extracted from it what is necessary for his publication, he will send it on to you. — I remain in the hope of receiving from you a copy of my catalogue when printed being very necessary in enabling me to replace many of the same editions of books. Accept the assurance of my esteem and respect.

Th: Jefferson

J. W. Watterston

Case US 6A 77-14

free
Th. Jefferson
APR
15
Free
Horatio G. Spafford.
Venango.

Dear Sir

Monticello may. 11. 19.

The interest on the late derangement of my health which was so kindly expressed by many, could not but be gratifying to me inasmuch as it manifested a sentiment that I had not been merely an useless cypher of society. yet a decline of health, at the age of 76. was naturally to be expected, and is a warning of an event which cannot be distant, and whose approach I contemplate with little concern. for indeed in no circumstance has nature been kinder to us, than in the soft gradations by which she prepares us to part willingly with what we are not destined always to retain. first one faculty is withdrawn and then another, sight, hearing, memory, ecurasy, affections, & friends, filched one by one, till we are left among strangers, the mere monuments of times past, and specimens of antiquity for the observation of the curious.

To your request of materials for writing my life, I know not what to say, altho' I have been obliged to say something to several preceding applications of the same kind. one answer indeed is obvious, that I am, by decay of memory, aversion to labor, & cares more suited to my situation, unequal to such a task. of the public transactions in which I have borne a part, I have kept no narrative with a view to history. a life of constant action leaves no time for recording. always thinking of what is next to be done, what has been done is dismissed, and soon obliterated from the memory. I cannot be insensible to the particularity which has induced several persons to think my life worthy of remembrance, and towards none more than yourself, who give me so much credit more than I deserve, am entitled to, as to what has been effected for the safeguard of our republican constitution. mr.

Mr. Spafford

Case MS 6A 79-15

- mercy, and able coadjutors have participated in these efforts, and merit equal notice. my life, in fact, has been so much like that of others that their history is my history, with a mere difference of feature. the only valuable materials for history which I possessed were the pamphlets of the day, carefully collected and preserved. but these past on to Congress with my library, and are to be found in their depository. except the Notes on Virginia, I never wrote anything but acts of office, of which I rarely kept a copy. these will all be found in the journals and gazettes of the times. there was a book published in England about 1801. or soon after, entitled 'Public characters,' in which was given a sketch of my history to that period. I never knew, nor could conjecture by whom this was written; but certainly by some one pretty intimately acquainted with myself and my connections. there were a few inconsiderable errors in it, but in general it was correct. Delaplaine, in his Repository, has also given some outlines on the same subject. he sets out indeed with an error as to the county of my birth. Chesterfield, which he states as such, was the residence of my grandfather, and remoter ancestors: but Albemarle was that of my father, & of my own birth & residence. excepting this error, I remark no other but in his ascriptions of more merit than I have deserved. Girardin's history of Virginia too gives many particulars on the same subject which are correct. these publications furnish all the details of facts & dates which can interest any body, and more than I could now furnish myself from a decayed memory, or any notes I retain. while therefore I feel just acknowledgements for the partial selection of a subject for your employment, I am persuaded you will perceive there is too little new & worthy of public notice to devote to it a time which may be so much more usefully employed. and with a due sense of the partiality of your friendships, I salute you with assurances of the greatest esteem & respect.

Th: Jefferson

THE NEWBERRY
LIBRARY

free
Th: Jefferson

Richard Bland Lee esq

Washington col

Pres^t
Mar^l Jefferson
Aug^t 11. 1819

Aug. 11. 19

I am indebted to you, dear Sir, for your excellent oration on the 4th of July, and still more for the indulgence with which you have been so good as to receive what relates to myself. In a new government as ours is, and especially in one somewhat ambiguous in its form, it was to be expected that there would be differences of opinion as to the direction in which it should be administered. Time seems to have given it its settled shape, and happily all [illegible] seem to have rallied to it. But what is to be the next subject of dispute? Will it be political, commercial, religious or what? for all free people must have some topic of diversion. Thus I shall leave a new race now on the stage, who, from the advances in science will be wiser than their predecessors. I salute you with friendly esteem and respect.

Richard B. Lee esq

Case MS 6A 77-16

Sir

Monticello Aug 31. 20.

Your letter of the 19th was recieved in due time, and I wish it were in my power to furnish you more fully, than in the inclosed paper, with materials for the biography of George Wythe. but I possess none in writing, am very distant from the place of his birth and early life, and know not a single person in that quarter from whom enquiry could be made with the expectation of collecting any thing material. add to this that feeble health disables me almost from writing, and entirely from the labor of going into difficult research. I became acquainted with mr Wythe when he was about 35. years of age. he directed my studies in the law, led me into business, and continued until death my most affectionate friend. a close intimacy with him during that period of forty odd years, the most important of his life, enables me to state it's leading facts, which being of my own knolege, I vouch their truth. of what precedes that period I speak from hearsay only, in which there may be error, but of little account, as the character of the facts will themselves manifest. in the epoch of his birth I may err a little, stating that from the recollection of a particular incident, the date of which, within a year or two, I do not distinctly remember. these scanty outlines you will be able I hope, to fill up from other information, and they may serve you sometimes as landmarks to distinguish truth from error, in what you hear from others. the exalted virtue of the man will also be a polar star to guide you in all matters which may touch that element of his character. but on that you will recieve imputation from no man; for, as far as I knew, he never had an enemy

Mr John Sanderson.

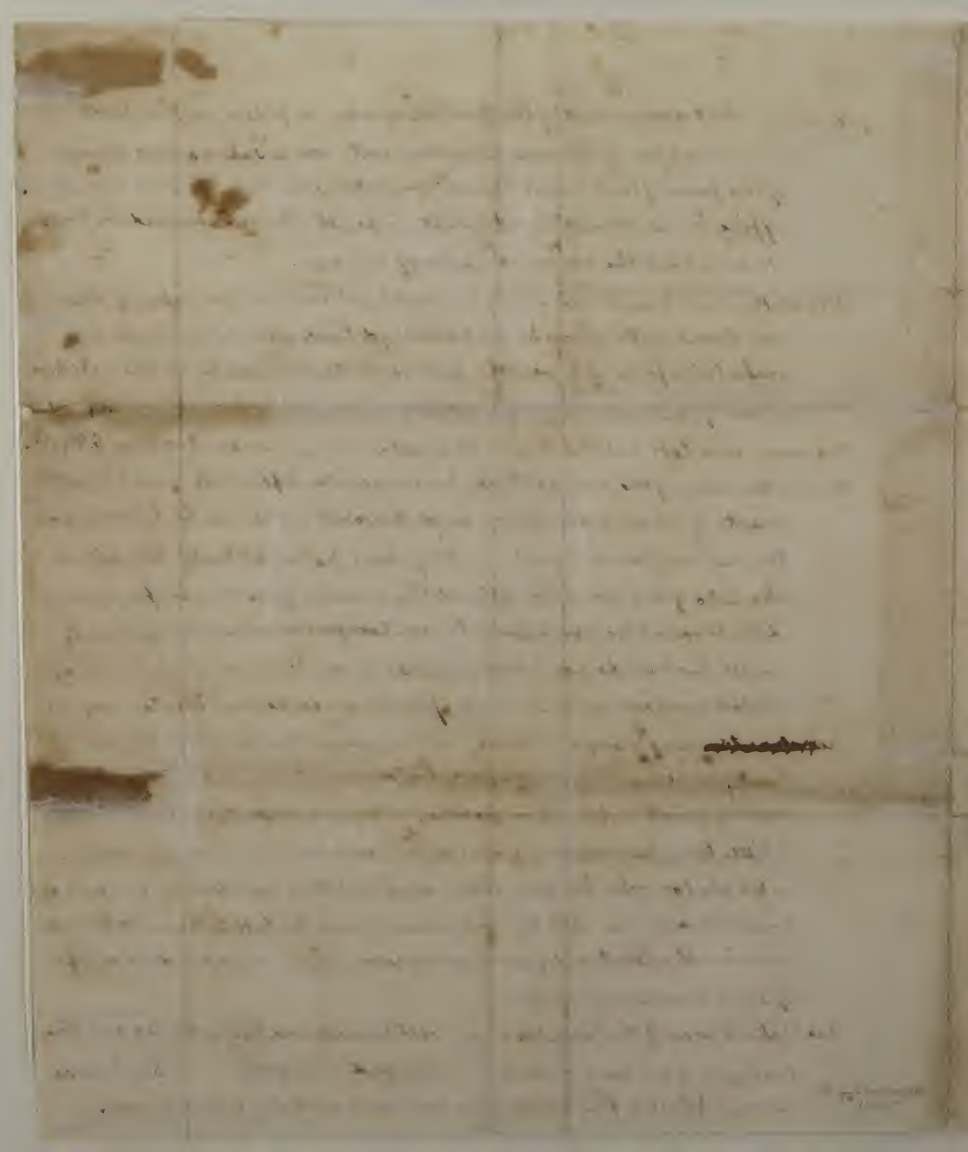
Case MS 6A 79-17

Little as I am able to contribute to the just reputation of this excellent man, it is the act of my life most gratifying to my heart: & leaves me only to regret that a waining memory can do no more.

Of mr Hancock I can say nothing, having known him only as in the chair of Congress. having myself been the youngest man, but one, in that body, the disparity of age prevented any particular intimacy. but of him there can be no difficulty in obtaining full information in the North.

I salute you, Sir, with sentiments of great respect.

Th: Jefferson



Mss. Notes for the biography of George Wythe.

George Wythe was born about the year 1727. or 1728. of a respectable family in the county of Elizabeth city on the shores of the Chesapeak. he inherited from his father a fortune sufficient for independance & ease. he had not the benefit of a regular education in the schools, but acquired a good one of himself, and without assistance; insomuch as to become the best Latin and Greek scholar in the state. it is said that while reading the Greek testament his mother held an English one to aid him in rendering the Greek text conformably with that. he also acquired by his own reading a good knowledge of Mathematics, of natural and moral philosophy.

he engaged in the study of the law under the direction of a relation of that profession, and went early to the bar of the General court then occupied by men of great ability, learning & dignity in their profession. he soon became eminent among them, and, in process of time, the first at the bar, taking into consideration his superior learning, correct elocution and logical style of reasoning. for in pleading he never indulged himself with an useless or declamatory thought or word; and became as distinguished by correctness and purity of conduct in his profession, as he was by his industry & fidelity to those who employed him.

he was early elected to the House of representatives, then called the House of Burgesses, and continued in it until the revolution. on the first dawn of that, instead of higgling on halfway principles as others did who feared to follow their reason, he took his stand on the solid ground that the only link of political union between us and Great Britain was the identity of our Executive; that that nation and it's parliament had no more authority over us than we had over them, and that we were co-ordinate nations with Great Britain and Hanover.

Coolidge MS 6+ 79-18

in 1774. he was a member of a Committee of the H. of Burgesses, appointed to prepare a Petition to the king, Memorial to the H. of Lords, and a Remonstrance to the H. of Commons, on the subject of the proposed stamp act. he was made draughtsman of the last, and following his own principles, he so far over went the timid hesitations of his colleagues that his draught was subjected by them to material modifications. and, when the famous resolutions of mr Henry, in 1775. were proposed, it was not on any difference of principle that they were opposed by Pendleton, Pendleton, Nicholas, Randolph & the worthies, who had long been the habitual leaders of the House; but because those papers of the preceding session had already expressed the same sentiments and assertions of right, and that an answer to them was yet to be expected.

In Aug. 1775. he was appointed a member of Congress, and in 1776. signed the Declaration of Independance, of which he had, in debate, been an eminent supporter. and subsequently, in the same year he was appointed, by the legislature of Virginia, one of a Committee to revise the laws of the state, as well of British, as of colonial enactment, and to prepare bills for reenacting them with such alterations as the change in the form and principles of the government and other circumstances required: and of this work he executed a period commencing with the revolution in England, and ending with the establishment of the new government here; excepting the Act for regulating descents, for religious freedom, and for proportioning crimes & punishments.

In 1779. he was chosen Speaker of the H. of Delegates, being distinguished for learning in Parliamentary law and precedents; and towards the end of the same year he was appointed one of the three Chancellors

to whom that department of the Judiciary was confided, on the first organisation of the new government. on a subsequent change of the form of that court, he was appointed sole Chancellor in which office he continued to act until his death which happened in June 1806. about the 70th or 79th year of his age.

Mr. Wythe had been twice married, first, I believe to a daughter of the mr Lewis, with whom he had studied law: and afterwards to a miss Taliaferro, of a wealthy and respectable family, in the neighbor-hood of Williamsburg, by neither of whom did he leave issue.

No man ever left behind him a character more venerated than G. Wythe. his virtue was of the purest kind; his integrity inflexible, and his justice exact; of warm patriotism, and, devoted as he was to liberty, and the natural and equal rights of men, he might truly be called the Cato of his country, without the avarice of the Roman; for a more disinterested person never lived. temperance and regularity in all his habits gave him general good health, and his unaf-fected modesty and suavity of manners endeared him to every one. his [illegible] was easy elocution, his language chaste, methodical in the arrangement of his matter, learned and logical in the [illegible] and of great urbanity in debate. not quick of apprehension, but with a little time profound in penetration, and sound in conclusion. in his philosophy he was firm, and neither troubling, nor perhaps trusting any one with his religious creed, he left to the world the con-clusion that that religion must be good which could produce a life of such exemplary virtue

his stature was of the middle size, well formed and proportioned and the features of his face manly, comely and engaging. Such was George Wythe, the honor of his own, and model of future times.

Th: Jefferson

His Excellency Dec 27. 1820.

Richard Rush

Minister Plenipotentiary

of the U.S. of America

London

Letters for Mr Rose and Mr Conway.

~~The last letter~~ The happy brevity of his allusion to the "Missouri question".

Dear Sir Monticello Dec. 27. 20.

I took the liberty in October last to request you to put a catalogue of books which I inclosed into the hands of an honest booksellers, one to whom I might address myself with confidence hereafter without troubling you: and at the same time desired my correspondent in Richmond Capt. Bernard Peyton to remit a bill of 40.£ sterling to be delivered to the Bookseller to be placed by him to my account.

I now avail myself of the protection of your cover for the two inclosed letters. that to mr Roscoe will readily find it's destination. mrs Cosway's address I do not know. mr Cosway her husband, about 31. or 32. years ago when I knew them both in Paris, was the most celebrated miniature painter in England & perhaps in Europe. his house in London & Cabinet was the fashionable daily resort of the diplomatic corps, of foreigners & distinguished natives. he was living a year ago but paralytic. I think their residence will be known to the gentlemen of that art.

I will say nothing to you of politics because I know no more of them than from the newspapers which you get. we are laboring hard under the portentous Missouri question. the preceding generation sacrificed themselves to establish their posterity in independent self-government, which their successors seem disposed to throw away for an abstract proposition. they have a right to do it, as we have to lament it. in all events I salute you with friendship & respect.

Th: Jefferson

Coal mts. CA T1 1

Monticello Aug. 18. 21.

Your favor of the 7th is just now received. the letter to which it refers was written by me with the sole view of recommending to the study of my fellow citizens a book which I considered as containing more genuine doctrines on the subject of our government and carrying us back more truly to it's fundamental principles than any one which had been written since the adoption of our constitution. as confined to this object, I thought, and still think it's language as plain and intelligible as I can make it. but when we see inspired writings made to speak whatever opposite controversialists wish them to say, we can not ourselves expect to find language incapable of similar distortion. my expressions were general: their perversion is in their misapplication to a particular case. to test them truly, they should turn to the book with whose opinions they profess to coincide. if the book establishes that a state has no right to tax the monied property within it's limits, or that it can be called, as a party, to the bar of the Federal judiciary, then they may infer that these are my opinions. if no such doctrines are there, my letter does not authorise their imputation to me.

It has long however been my opinion, and I have never shrunk from it's expression, (altho' I do not chuse to put it into a newspaper, nor, like a Priam in armour, offer my self it's champion) that the germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the constitution of the federal judiciary; an irresponsible body, (for impeachment is scarcely a scare-crow) working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little to-day & a little to-morrow, and advancing it's noiseless step, like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction, until all shall be usurped from the states & the govern ment

Case MS 6A 79-20

of all be consolidated into one. to this I am opposed; because wherever all government, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another, and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated. it will be, as in Europe. there a man must be either pike or ~~gudgeon~~ gudgeon, hammer or anvil. our functionaries and theirs are wares from the same work-shops; made of the same materials, & by the same hand. if the states look with apathy on this silent descent of their government into the gulph which is to swallow all, we have only to weep over the human character formed uncontrolable but by a rod of iron, and the blasphemers of man, as incapable of self government, become his true historians. But let me beseech you, Sir, not to let this letter get into a newspaper. tranquility, at my age, is the supreme good of life. I think it a duty, and it is my earnest wish, to take no further part in public affairs; to leave them to the existing generation to whose turn they have fallen, and to resign the remains of a decaying body and mind to their protection. the abuse of confidence by publishing my letters has cost me more than all other pains, and make me afraid to put pen to paper in a letter of sentiment. ~~My~~ I have done it frankly in answer to your letter, it is in full trust that I shall not be thrown by you into the arena of a newspaper. I salute you with great respect

Th: Jefferson

Monticello. Aug. 18. 21.

Sir

Your favour of the 7th is just now received. The letter to which it refers was written by me with the sole view of recommending, to the study of my fellow citizens, a book which I considered as containing more genuine doctrines on the subject of our government, and applying us back more truly to its fundamental principles, than any one which had been writ- since the adoption of our constitution. As confined to this object, I thought, & still think, its language as plain & intelligible as I can make it. but when we inspired writings made to speak whatever is proper controversial it's wish them to say, we cannot ourselves expect to find language incapable of similar distortion My expressions were general; their perversion is in their misapplication to a particular case. to let them truly, they should turn to the book, with whose opinions they profess to coincide. if the book establishes that a state has no right to tax the monied property within its limits, or that it can be called, as a party, to the bar of the federal judiciary, then they may infer that these are my opinions. if no such doctrines are there, my letter does not authorize their imputation to me. It has long however been my opinion, and I have never shrunk from its expression, (although I do not choose to put it into a newspaper, nor, like a Priam [illegible], offer myself as champion) that the germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the constitution of the federal judiciary, an irresponsible body (for impeachment is scarcely a scare-crow) working, like gravity, by night & by day, gaining a little to-day and a little to-morrow, and advancing its noiseless step, like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped from the states, & the government of all be consolidated into one. to this I am opposed; because whenever all government, domestic & foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided, of one government on another, & will become as venal & oppressive as the government from which we separated. it will be as in Europe where every man must be either pike or gudgeon, hammer or anvil. our fundamentals & Treasons are wares from the same work shop; made of the same materials, & by the same hand. if the States look with apathy on this silent ascendancy of their governments into the gulph which is to swallow all, we have only to weep over the human character, formed as unalterable but by a rod of iron; & the blasphemers of man, as incapable of self government, become his true historians. But let me beseech you, sir, not to let this letter get into a newspaper. tranquility, at my age, is the supreme good of life. I think it a duty, & it is my earnest wish, to take no further part in Public affairs; to leave them to the existing generation, to whose turn they have fallen, and to resign the remains of a decaying body & mind to their protection. The abuse of confidence, by publishing my letter, has cost me more than all other pains, and makes me afraid to put pen to paper in a letter of sentiment. if I have done it frankly in answer to your letter, it is in full trust that I shall not be thrown by you into the Arena of a newspaper. I salute you with great respect.

Th Jefferson

Case MS 6A 79.21

free
Th: Jefferson

Mr. Horatio G. Spafford

Ballstown Spa

state of New York

Dear Sir

Monticello Mar. 19. 22.

I duly received your favor of Feb 28 and take a friendly interest in the good and the evil which you, as all our human brethren, have to encounter in the path of life. I hope your literary labors will prove advantageous to yourself and useful to the world. The occupation of the mind is surely that which brings most happiness. but with respect to your Apprentice's Spelling book, you could not have appealed to a more incompetent judge than myself. I have never in my life had occasion to attend to that elementary stage of education, nor to reflect at all on the different methods of conducting it to best advantage. this is a solid reason for my not undertaking to give an opinion on it, added to another which I have been obliged to lay down as a law to myself, of not usurping the right of saying to the public what is worthy or not worthy of their attention. this is the office of Critics by profession, in whose line I am the least practised of all men living. with my regrets therefore that I can offer nothing but my best wishes for the success of all your literary and other labors, accept the assurance of my esteem & respect.

Mr. Spafford.

Th: Jefferson

Case MS 64 79-22

free
Th: Jefferson

William B. Giles esquire

Wig wam

near Genito bridge

Dear Sir

Monticello June 9. 21

I received yesterday your favor of the 31st ult. and my grandson T.J. Randolph having set out for Richmond the day before, I immediately inclosed the papers to him by mail, and informed him that I should be ready if thought necessary to bear testimony to the honorable character of our deceased friend, as I knew him. I am sorry to learn that you are among the sufferers by his misfortunes. I am dreadfully so, to an amount which will weigh heavily on the remainder of my life.

I was much gratified by the visit of your son, & formed as favorable an opinion of him as it's shortness would permit. I hope we shall have our University opened yet in time for him. This however must depend on the future acts of the legislature. they started the schemes of their Primary schools and University at the same time, and as if on the same footing, without considering that the former required no preliminary expences, the latter an immense one. and their supplies of the deficiency they have called hitherto by the name of loans. as if the monies of the literary fund could be more legitimately appropriated. their last vote will compleatly finish the buildings: and whenever they shall declare our annuity liberated from this incumbrance, we shall take measures to procure Professors, and to open the institution. I hope they will make this declaration at their next session. we can immediately accomodate 200. students, which number I am sure will be quickly furnished to overflowing. every student additional to that number, and I think they will be many, will require progressive accomodations to the amount of 300. for each, until we attain our maximum. the success of the institution will I hope, by that time, encourage the legislature to furnish this in consideration of the dollars & cents they will add to our circulation, as well as to the wholesome difference it will make among our citizens.

I have been gratified lately by hearing that your health was improving. the bone of my arm which was fractured is well knitted. but the small bones of the wrist being dislocated at the same time, could not be truely replaced, so that it's use will never be recovered in any great degree. my health is good, but so weakened by age that I can walk but little: but I ride daily, and with little fatigue. I hope you will continue us, as long as you wish it, to enjoy life and health, and I pray you to be assured of my constant and sincere friendship and respect.

Th: Jefferson

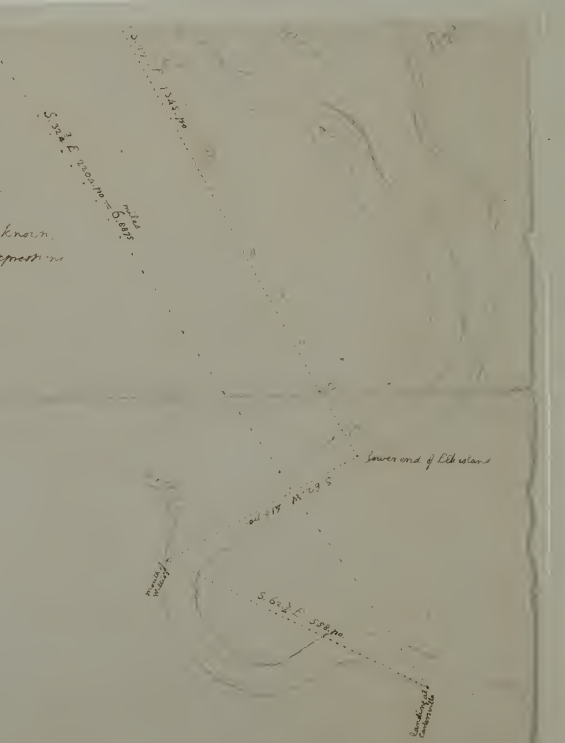
Case 115 bA 79-23

by Carrington's plat of Cumberland County made in 1777

from the mouth of Wills's to the avenue at Carlesville S. 62¾ E. 558 p.q.
by Anderson Bryan's survey made in 1774.

from the Point of fork to the ferry at Carlesville S. 52¾ E. 2760 p.q. = 0.8875 miles
by protraction of the preceding lines.

The 2d & 4th courses above mentioned were run in 1775. then the variation of the compass was about 2° 30' East the variation at the dates of the 1st & 3d courses is not known. Here roads are here platted according to their magnetic expression consequently could need correction by the variation



Case M5 6A 79-24

Smallest Plough
beam. 4 1/2 5. long, breadth behind 3.1 1/2
the 1 mm annular 2 1/2
height of beam from ground behind 1 2 1/2
before 15 1/2 ?
length of handles 4.1
their spring at top 21.3.
angle of their elevation from the hori-
zontal line 33°

[illegible] length of iron mould board 3/8 + 1/16

share [illegible]

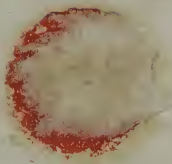
mould board

the mould board as it sets on the share leaves a cutting of measure of 3.1. behind, & at the top of the wing and 2 1/2 I. before at the toe of the mould board & forms the breadth of the furrow which is 6 3/4 wide at bottom. it is 2' long & 10.1. high and must be 11 3/4 wide at top the heel of the mould board is 8 3/4 from the left side of the bar, it's hinder and upper [illegible] from the perpend. of the left side of the bar. it's cast therefore is 4 1/4

1814. 3.1. these mould boards cast for me at Richmond weigh 18 lb 2 oz.

Cast MS 6A 79-25

6 3/4



Statement of facts

[illegible] with the Memorial [illegible] was published in 1816, [illegible] Remarks [illegible] the Journal No's of the Friend of Peace. Soon after the letter were received from Rossia a copy of them was sent to [illegible] the Inauguration of the Peace Society, and accompanied by an unofficial letter, which informed of the election of Prince Galitzin as an honorary member. [illegible] The letter expressed the full approbation that the Jefferson views and feelings were in favour of the abolition of war, as a strong desire that the whole weight of his character should be thrown into the pacific scale before he should leave the world; also a desire to know, whether on any account it would be unpleasant to have his name enrolled with that of Prince Galitzin's on the records of our Society. In answer, the following frank and friendly letter has been received.

Case MS 6A 79-26

free
Th: Jefferson

Mr. Noah Worcester

Brighton Mass.